

CLAIM LISTING

1-20. (canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A communications apparatus comprising:

a communication network configured to handle packet-based traffic;

a voice processor coupled to the communication network;

a control processor configured to assign a queue priority to a communication signal, the communication signal in transit between the communication network and the voice processor, wherein the queue priority is determined at least in part according to whether the communication signal is corresponds to a standard call mode or a bypass call mode, wherein the standard call mode ~~comprises~~ corresponds to communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by a transcoder and the bypass call mode ~~comprises~~ corresponds to communication signals that are neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder.

22. (Currently amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the voice processor is configured to insert a control flag into a signal delivered to the control processor, where the control processor utilizes the control flag to determine whether the ~~call~~ communication signal is one of a standard call mode and a bypass call mode corresponds to the standard call mode or the bypass call mode.

23. (canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by the transcoder are one of mobile-to-landline and landline-to-mobile calls and the communication signals that ~~do not require encoding and decoding are~~ neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder are mobile-to-mobile calls.

25. (Currently amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 21, ~~wherein the queue priority comprises a modified FIFO queue wherein communication signals having a~~

control flag indicating a bypass mode call are placed at the bottom of the modified FIFO queue wherein the control processor is configured to determine the queue priority by placing the communication signal at the bottom of a modified FIFO queue when the communication signal has a control flag indicating that the communication signal corresponds to the bypass mode.

26-29. (canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

determining a queue priority for a communication signal based at least in part according to whether the communication signal is corresponds to a standard call mode or a bypass call mode, wherein the standard call mode ~~comprises~~ corresponds to communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by a transcoder and the bypass call mode ~~comprises~~ corresponds to communication signals that are neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder;

assigning the queue priority to the communication signal, the communication signal being in transit between a communication network and a voice processor.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, further comprising

inserting by the voice processor a control flag into a signal delivered to a control processor;

utilizing by the control processor the control flag to determine whether the communication signal corresponds to the standard call mode or the bypass call mode.

32. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the communication signals that are either decoded or encoded by the transcoder are one of mobile-to-landline and landline-to-mobile calls and the communication signals that are neither encoded nor decoded by the transcoder are mobile-to-mobile calls.

33. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein determining the queue priority comprises placing the communication signal at the bottom of a modified FIFO queue when the communication signal has a control flag indicating that the communication signal corresponds to the bypass mode.